

CSREES Administrator's Report to the Partnership Winter 2003

The mission of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities. In support of this mission, CSREES program areas have undertaken the following new initiatives and activities and/or addressed "hot" and emerging issues detailed in this report.

Advancing Knowledge for the
Food and Agricultural System



Message from the CSREES Administrator:

Despite the fact that four months into Fiscal Year 2003 we still are operating under a continuing resolution rather than an appropriation, we are preparing for the release of the President's 2004 Budget on February 3, and beginning work on our Fiscal Year 2005 agency request. Many at both the federal and state level recall when budget issues were "seasonal." Today budget issues are always in season.

In 2001, CSREES staff began a process of developing "white papers" on high-priority issues to use as a basis for budget initiatives. Teams of national program leaders (NPLs) reviewed the state of science and education related to critical and emerging issues and synthesized concise statements of opportunities for investment in both ongoing and new programs. The value of the white papers has proven to extend well beyond budget development to include internal program planning, fostering debate among scientists and educators about new directions, and communicating with constituent groups about new opportunities in agricultural science and education.

This year we intend to broaden the process of developing the papers to include university partners as well as our NPLs, and by recognizing at the onset that the papers will be used for multiple purposes. This action reflects the recommendation of the new Partnership Working Group chaired by Patricia Jensen (ND) and Gary Cunningham. Gary, Tina Buch, the CSREES budget officer, and our chief science advisor, Brad Fenwick, and chief education advisor, Mike Tate, will lead the activity.

We continue to seek ways to effectively work with you to serve citizens by advancing knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities.

— Colien Hefferan



Reports from CSREES Program Areas

BUDGET AND STATUS REPORTS

- **FY 03 Continuing Resolution:** On January 31, 2003, the President signed another short-term continuing resolution to provide funding through February 7 for most of the federal government, including the Department of Agriculture. Funding is provided at the FY 02 level. Additional information on Congressional action on the FY 03 appropriation will be provided as it becomes available. Contact: Tina Buch, USDA/CSREES - tbuch@reeusda.gov.

CSREES LONG-TERM PLANNING

- **Five-Year Plan for the National Plant Genome Initiative Unveiled:** The National Science and Technology Council's (NSTC) Committee on Science's Interagency Working Group on Plant Genomes is co-chaired by Joseph Jen, USDA REE under secretary, and Mary Cutter, assistant director of the National Science Foundation. The committee recently unveiled a five-year (2003-2008) plan for the National Plant Genome Initiative (NPGI) at the International Plant and Animal Genome Conference in January. Many sectors of the scientific community contributed, and extensive interdisciplinary and international collaborations have been established by the scientific community to achieve NPGI goals. Contact: Ed Kaleikau, USDA/CSREES - ekaleikau@reeusda.gov.
- **USDA Under Secretaries Provide Input on NRI Priorities:** Joseph Jen, REE under secretary, has initiated meetings for CSREES with the six other USDA under secretaries. These meetings are focused on tailoring National Research Initiative competitive programs and the request for applications to meet emerging agency needs. The meetings will also provide input for the CSREES competitive program coordinated planning process and the development of 5-year issue plans. The initial series of meetings will conclude in February. Contact: Mark Poth, USDA/CSREES - mpoth@reeusda.gov.

NEW CSREES STAFF, STAFF CHANGES, AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

- **CSREES' Natural Resources and Environment Unit Expands University Working Partnerships:** Bruce Menzel, professor of natural resource ecology at Iowa State University, has begun a one-year assignment with CSREES as the national program leader for wildlife ecology. Contact: bmenzel@reeusda.gov. John Buckhouse, professor of rangeland resources/watershed management at Oregon State University, is serving as the national program leader for rangeland resources. Buckhouse will remain at Oregon State and travel on occasion to Washington, DC. Contact: john.c.buckhouse@orst.edu.

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

- **CSREES Will Present at the Upcoming Agricultural Outlook Forum 2003:** CSREES will present at one of the breakout sessions featured at the upcoming Agricultural Outlook Forum 2003 to be held February 20-21, 2003, in Crystal City, VA. The Forum will provide an overview of agricultural prospects and issues. Government officials, industry analysts, and farmers will assess farm prospects for the year ahead. Attendees come from production agriculture, commodity groups, the food and fiber industry, finance, universities, and government. Former CSREES chief scientist Ann Vidaver will moderate the session, "Controlling New Invasive and Exotic Pests and Diseases," which will feature four speakers. Speaker Carole Bolin, Michigan State University, will discuss "Invasive Animal Diseases." Jacqueline Fletcher, Oklahoma State University, will talk about "Invasive Plant Diseases." Richard Ward, Michigan State University, will discuss methods to fight plant diseases. Terry McElwain, Washington State University, will discuss the diagnostic networks being set up across the nation to quickly identify new and exotic diseases or pests. For more information, see <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/agforum.htm>.

■ **Newest SARE Publication Available:** The newest USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program bulletin, "Meeting the Diverse Needs of Limited Resource Producers," is available in quantity for use by extension educators and other interested groups (see <http://www.sare.org/bulletin/limited-resource/>). Contact: Jill Auburn, USDA/CSREES - jauburn@reeusda.gov.

■ **New CSREES National Water Quality Program Web Site:** A new Web site, <http://www.usawaterquality.org>, constructed by the University of Rhode Island and funded in part by CSREES, offers information about existing water quality programs and activities nationwide. Contact: Mike O'Neill, USDA/CSREES - moneill@reeusda.gov.

■ **Connecting People & Science:** The USDA-CSREES/Land-Grant System at Work for America is the title of the CSREES exhibit to be featured at the 2003 Food and Agricultural Sciences Exhibition/Reception on March 4, 2003, in Washington, DC. CSREES national program leaders and competitive programs managers and a multi-media exhibit will feature outstanding research, education, and extension programs supported by USDA and CSREES. Contact: Terry Meisenbach, USDA/CSREES - tmeisenbach@reeusda.gov.

GRANT PROGRAM UPDATES

■ **Update on Sustainable Community Innovation Grants:** The Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) and the Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program have received proposals for their second joint program in Sustainable Community Innovation Grants. The program blends on-farm sustainable agriculture practices with new off-farm community development strategies to build resilient farms, businesses, families, and communities in the South. Contact: Jill Auburn, USDA/CSREES - jauburn@reeusda.gov.

■ **New Federal Web Site on Scientific Information Launched:** A new federal Web site—<http://www.science.gov>—has been launched to make scientific information gathered by different agencies more accessible to the public. The site, an offshoot of Firstgov.gov, is useful because it houses information from multiple agencies that perform scientific research. Contact: Jason Hitchcock, USDA/CSREES - jhitchcock@reeusda.gov.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

■ **User's Guide to the Conservation Title of the Farm Bill Soon Available:** CSREES, the Wildlife Management Institute, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service have produced a user's guide to the Conservation Title of the 2002 Farm Bill, "Conservation Practices and Programs for Your Farm." Small quantities will be distributed to each extension director/administrator. An electronic copy and extra printed copies are available at <http://www.whmi.nrcs.usda.gov> and 1-888-LANDCARE. Contact: Larry Biles, USDA/CSREES - lbiles@reeusda.gov.

PEOPLE AND NUTRITION INITIATIVES

■ **Update on Financial Security Initiative:** 36 states have implementation plans in place to deliver and evaluate the national Cooperative Extension initiative "Financial Security in Later Life." The initiative offers a Web-based and face-to-face educational toolkit to encourage preparation for retirement and possible long-term care costs. For more information, go to <http://www.reeusda.gov/financialsecurity> or contact initiative co-chairs Nancy Porter, Clemson University, at nporter@clemson.edu, or Jane Schuchardt, USDA/CSREES - jschuchardt@reeusda.gov.

■ **Family Financial Planning Distance Education Program:** The Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance, represented by 10 colleges of human sciences, provides inter-institutional, Internet-based master's degrees and graduate certificates. The family financial planning master's program, now in its third year, has more than 90 students actively pursuing the degree. The Alliance has received support from USDA-CSREES and the U.S. Department of Education. Two additional graduate programs, gerontology and youth development, will begin in fall 2003. See

<http://www.gpidea.org> for more information about the Alliance and its courses and programs. Contact: Jane Schuchardt, USDA/CSREES - jschuchardt@reeusda.gov.

- **CSREES Helps Fund Newly Revised Talking About Disaster Guidebook:** A newly revised Talking About Disaster Guidebook, co-authored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the American Red Cross, and CSREES, will be available in spring 2003. The guide, to assist disaster safety information providers, will include information about terrorism in sections on natural and man-made disasters. Contact: Joseph L. Wysocki, USDA/CSREES - jwysocki@reeusda.gov.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPDATES

- **CSREES and eGovernment:** A CSREES Web site (<http://www.reeusda.gov/egov>) describes the agency's involvement with eGovernment, an exchange of services, programs, and information through an electronic medium. CSREES' eGovernment efforts include working on a solution to manage proposals once they are received through the (grants.gov) Web site. CSREES will begin a phased implementation of eGrants in the FY 2004 proposal cycle, with all CSREES programs required to receive proposals electronically by FY 2005. CSREES' eGrants efforts include the future release of a Web-based peer review system that will automate the proposal review process. Contact: Jason Hitchcock, USDA/CSREES - jhitchcock@reeusda.gov.
- **Roll-Out Events for e-Extension:** CSREES is currently part of a comprehensive presentation on e-Extension for the ECOP/National Extension Directors/Administrators Meeting in February 2003, where a System endorsement and mandate to implement e-Extension are anticipated. Issues such as governance, funding, intellectual property, local branding, and recognition will be discussed. Ideally, e-Extension will be the

outreach method of choice within USDA agencies and the resource of choice for external users. Virtual teams will develop science-based information. Contact: Greg Crosby, USDA/CSREES - gcrosby@reeusda.gov.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

- **Leveraging Regional Rural Development Centers:** CSREES collaborates with the four Regional Rural Development Centers and the Rural Policy Research Institute to create new partnerships and approaches to rural development that leverage public investments in research, education, and extension. Recent grants include: Ford Foundation for a rural community college initiative; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for a rural poverty research center; National Rural Funders Collaborative for cluster-based community development, development needs, and evaluation projects; and Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute for Government for analyzing rural and urban welfare and food stamp programs. Contact: Sally Ward Maggard, USDA/CSREES - smaggard@reeusda.gov.
- **CSREES Represented on the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children:** USDA/CSREES is represented on the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children by Joseph L. Wysocki, national program leader for indoor environments. This multi-agency effort has selected October of every year as Children's Health Month to educate parents and children on topics critical to children's health risks, such as lead poisoning, education and child care, safe cycling, child passenger safety, nutrition, infant mortality, mental health, and more. Contact: Joseph L. Wysocki, USDA/CSREES - jwysocki@reeusda.gov.

Reports from CSREES Program Areas (cont.)

PLANT, ANIMAL, SMALL FARM, AND BIOBASED PRODUCT UPDATES

■ Updates on CSREES Pesticide Safety

Education and Pest Management

Alternatives Programs: An interagency agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides pass-through funding for the Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP). Individual states and territories receive formula-allocated funding upon submission of plans of work and annual reports. The Performance Planning and Reporting System for PSEP has been established at North Carolina State University to provide Web-based reporting. The Pest Management Alternatives Program (PMAP), which supports research that provides producers with replacement technologies for pesticides that are under consideration for regulatory action by EPA, has supported 121 projects in 31 states since 1995. Contact: Monte P. Johnson-USDA/CSREES - mpjohnson@reeusda.gov.

■ IR-4 Crop Grouping Symposium

Accomplishes Mission: The Minor Crop (IR-4) Program recently brought together 150 interested experts and stakeholders to update and revise the U.S. regulatory scheme of crop groups and sub-groups. A properly structured crop grouping system can help provide specialty food and ornamental crop growers with needed pest management products. Contact: James Parochetti, USDA/CSREES - jparochetti@reeusda.gov.

■ Agricultural Development in the American Pacific (ADAP) Projects Reaches Another Milestone:

Implementation of the Paravet Training Program began in January 2003 CSREES, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the University of the South Pacific, and ADAP (involving American Samoa Community College, Marianas College, the College of Micronesia, and the University of Hawaii), provides animal production advice and basic animal health care in currently underserved communities. Contact: David L. Morris, USDA/CSREES - dmorris@reeusda.gov.

■ **National IPM Symposium Scheduled:** CSREES is supporting the 4th National Integrated Pest Management Symposium, to be held April 8-10, 2003, in Indianapolis, IN. The symposium will share pest management successes and challenges, build alliances for the future of integrated pest management, and launch the National Roadmap for IPM, a vision for IPM for the next 10 years in the U.S. More information can be obtained at the National Integrated Management Centers Web site, <http://www.pmcenters.org>, under "news." Contact: Mike Fitzner, USDA/CSREES - mfitzner@reeusda.gov.

■ New Rules for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations:

New rules for concentrated animal feeding operations were posted by EPA in December 2002. A series of informational bulletins and species factsheets can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/caforule>. New animal types and size limits are included in the new regulations, including swine, chickens, turkeys, dairy cows and heifers, beef cattle and veal calves, ducks, horses, and sheep. Any size operation determined to be polluting surface waters may also come under the new permit process. More detailed information is under development by several universities, including the National Center for Manure and Animal Waste Management Consortium. Current white papers on manure topics are available at the Center's Web site at:

http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/waste_mgt/natl-center/center.htm. Contacts: Richard Hegg, USDA/CSREES - rhegg@reeusda.gov and Mary Ann Rozum, USDA/CSREES - mrozum@reeusda.gov.

■ **Integrated Pest Management Centers Foster Cooperation Among States:** Several land-grant universities — in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island—have teamed up to form the New England Pest Management Network (NEPMNet). This collaborative effort connects those interested in pest management issues, such as farmers, educators, consumer groups, and regulators, to reliable pest

management information relevant to New England. For more information, see <http://ProNewEngland.org>. Contact: Mike Fitzner, USDA/CSREES - mfitzner@reeusda.gov.

- **National Plant Pest and Disease Diagnostic Network (NP2D2) Works to Increase Homeland Security:** Regional university plant diagnostic labs at Cornell, Florida, Michigan State, and California-Davis (with support from Kansas and Texas Tech) are cooperating with state governments and land-grant scientists to enhance national security in case of a bio-terrorist attack. These diagnostic labs and the National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS) at Purdue University form the National Plant Pest and Disease Diagnostic Network (NP2D2). Later in 2003, the prototype network will be tested to demonstrate its coordinated national capability to detect, identify, and report possible bio-terrorist attacks of agricultural and natural ecosystems. Contact: Kitty Cardwell, USDA/CSREES - kcardwell@reeusda.gov.

- **Wye Research Field Tour Held to Show How Research Findings Are Transferred:** National Association of Counties (NACo) Fellow Fred Burrell and CSREES NRE Program Leader Eric Norland arranged a field tour for NACo staff to the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station at the Wye Research Center on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Participants learned how research projects are conducted and how newly discovered research knowledge is transferred to users. Numerous potential CSREES-NACo projects were discussed and follow-up activities have taken place. Contact: Eric R. Norland, USDA/CSREES - enorland@reeusda.gov.